

Maryland Children's Cabinet & Governor's Office for Children

History and Development:

- Original sub-cabinet created by executive order in 1988 and codified in statute in 1990 by the legislature then allowed to sunset in 2005. The Maryland Children's Cabinet and the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) were reconfigured and established by executive order in 2005 with the goal of developing and implementing coordinated state policies for children, youth and families.
- Function of Children's Cabinet: Convening and decision making.
- Function of the GOC: Implement the decisions from the Children's Cabinet.

Membership:

- Secretaries from six state departments: Budget and Management, Disabilities, Health and Mental Hygiene, Human Resources, Juvenile Services and Education; and the Executive Director of GOC.
- Chair: Executive Director of GOC who is appointed by the Governor.

Advisory and Work Groups:

- Advisory Council, consisting of community members, provides recommendations on specific initiatives.
- Youth Council: provides recommendations and meets with the Children's Cabinet at least once a year.

Administrative Home:

- Governor's Office.

Staffing:

- Children's Cabinet staffed by the GOC.
- Currently, the GOC maintains 20 full-time staff positions.

Results Framework:

- Eight child well-being results: a) babies are born healthy, b) healthy children, c) children enter school ready to learn, d) children successful in school, e) children completing school, f) children safe in their families and communities, g) stable and economically independent families, and h) communities support family life.
- Adoption of 25 indicators has led to annual

Children's Cabinet report assessing progress on indicators using Results Accountability Framework.

- Children's Cabinet makes presentation to the Legislative Joint Committee for Children, Youth and Families about the coordination of efforts of 'turn the curve' on various indicators.

Initiatives:

- Community Partnership Agreements: between Local Management Boards (LMBs) and GOC to improve local results and indicators.
- Development of local prevention plans.
- Three-Year Children's Plan and the Youth Ready by 21 Action Agenda.
- Local, integrated Systems of Care through Local Access Mechanisms, Single Point of Access, Single Point of Entry, wraparound and expansion of community resources.

Strategies:

Aligning Policies and Programs

- Cross-agency communication and coordination to review recommendations and actions.
- Staff and facilitate the work of the State Coordinating Council (SCC) to assure appropriate services for children with most intensive needs.
- Turning the curve on indicators: Children Enter School Ready to Learn and Youth Ready by 21 initiatives, and stable and economically independent families.

Improving Systems and Services

- Participation of LMBs in improving performance measures through trainings, technical assistance and changes in funding guidelines.
- Collaborate with Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs) to reduce number of youth in out-of-state residential treatment facilities and match them with appropriate treatment options.
- Examination of micro and macro issues across agencies.

Engaging Youth and Communities

- Creation of Youth Council in 2006.
- Stakeholder and LMB meetings.

- Convene community level listening tours and focus groups.

Building Demand/Public Support

- Community engagement with LMBs.
- Establishment and work of the Joint Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families.
- Clearly articulated mission and dedicated work of the Children's Cabinet and GOC through Three-Year Children's Plan, Annual Report and Child Well-Being Results book.

Funding:

- Annual budget of the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund, includes operational costs, support to local management boards and grants to various programs.

Local Connections:

- LMBs are the local parallel structures:
 - Twenty-four boards in total (one for each county and one for Baltimore City).
 - Membership comprised of private and public members.
 - Work closely with the state structure to oversee programs.
 - Receive monetary and technical assistance resources from the state structure.
- LMBs complimented by the LCCs, which also have a council in each county and Baltimore City.
 - Managed by the LMB but comprised of representatives from local agencies.
 - Local parallel to the GOC and focus on specific populations of children and youth.

Contact for Information:

Cassie Motz, Interim Executive Director
cmotz@goc.state.md.us

Karen Finn, Chief of Programs and Policy,
Governor's Office for Children
kfinn@goc.state.md.us

www.goc.state.md.us